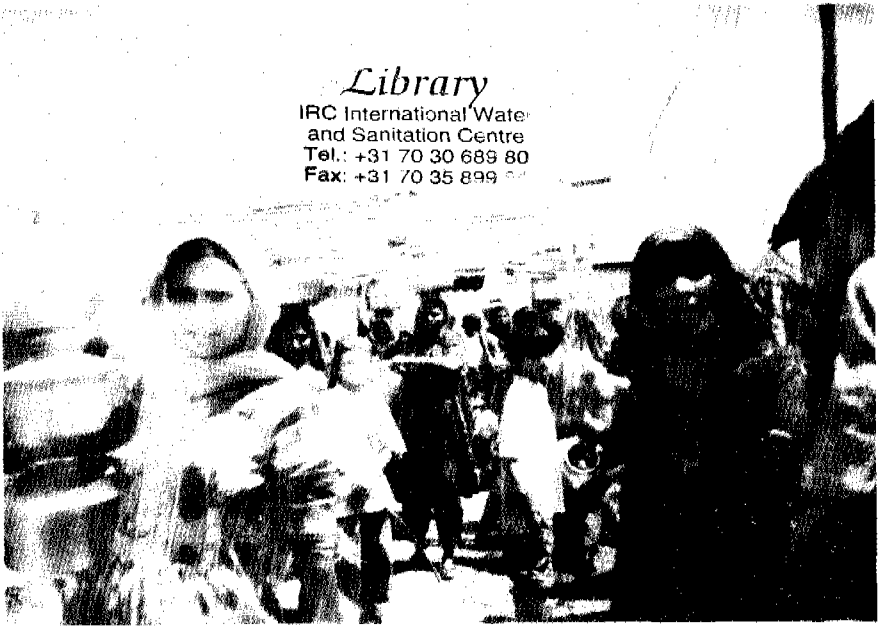


MAINSTREAMING GENDER IN WATER MANAGEMENT

Library

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"World Water Forum" - 17 - 22 March 2000
The Hauge, Netherland

822-IN00-16642

What is SEWA

1. It is a representative body of 220000 poor working women.
2. SEWA elects its office bearers.



3. SEWA strives for self employment and self-reliance of its members.

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SEWA is not.....!

1. SEWA is not an NGO only.
2. SEWA is not a feminist group only.



3. SEWA is not an implementation agency only.
4. SEWA is a representative and democratic organisation.

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SEWA's Work

- Organize women workers for full employment and self reliance.
- With employments workers obtain :
 - Work security
 - Income security
 - Food security
 - Social security



- Self reliance is achieved :
 - Individually and collectively.
 - Economically.
 - and in decision making
- Strategy of struggle and development is promoted by SEWA.

SEWA's Services

Supportive Services are provided by SEWA.

- Health Care
- Child Care
- Insurance & Risk Cover
- Housing & Infrastructure
- Savings and Credit



- Legal Aid
- Capacity Building (training, literacy, research and communication)
- Environment regeneration
- Cooperative education
- Advocacy and Policy change

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SEWA's spread

S.N.	Districts	Activities
1.	Ahmedabad	Milk Cooperatives, nursery, savings groups, health services.
2.	Banaskantha	Milk cooperatives, nursery, fodder farm, savings and credit group, child care, watershed, insurance, Shakti packet, housing, health services.
3.	Gandhinagar	
4.	Kheda	Paper picker, nursery, savings, insurance, weaving, Shakti packet, child care, housing, health services.
5.	Kutch	Embroidery, savings
6.	Mehsana	Nursery, savings, health services.
7.	Sabarkantha	Women farmer's cooperative, nursery, savings, watershed, health services.
8.	Surendranagar	Child care, embroidery, Shakti packet, housing, saving.
9.	Vadodara	Nursery, quarry cooperative, savings, poultry, health services.

SEWA's Work in Water Sector

Selected List

1. **Integrated Watershed Development Project of the World Bank with Gujarat Land Development Corporation in Sabarkantha.**
2. **National Watershed Management Project with Government of India in Banaskantha.**
3. **Building rainwater harvesting structures in Banaskantha.**
4. **Augmenting local water resources in cluster of villages.**
5. **Water campaigns in districts of Gujarat.**
6. **Provision of water as basic service in slums in Ahmedabad Municipal Corporation area.**
7. **Financing of "water loan" to urban and rural members.**
8. **Special focus groups actions : salt worker, artisans, gum collectors, homebased workers, slum dwellers, women farmers etc.**

Reality of Women : Work

From SEWA's Perspective :

- Women are active producers in Indian economy.
- Women as workers constitute the large majority of informal sector workers in Indian economy.



- Most working women are poor.
- Majority of women are water users.

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Reality of Women : Water

From SEWA's Perspective :

- Water is a basic human need.
- Access to water is a basic human right.



- Money is only one way to value water.

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Reality of Women and Water

From SEWA's Perspective :

- Poor women are central to any decisions related to use, management and ownership of water, and



- Water management must combine both, market and planned approach.

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Mainstream ?

In other words, women's concerns cannot only be mainstreamed, they must be made central.



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Mainstream : Ownership Organization

Lesson : I

Unless organizations owned by women water users come up to manage water resources, the water sector will remain unbalanced in favour of men and exploitative, overused and over consumed.



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Mainstream : Institutional Review

Lesson : II

Simultaneously, the existing water institutions - Gujarat Land Development Corporation, Gujarat Water Supply and Sewerage Board, etc. must refocus on poor women's water needs and build their capacity.



Mainstream : Land Ownership

Lesson : III

Where men owned land, ownership of water by women has provided counter balancing economic and gender power. Think of water in relation to land and vegetation.



Mainstream : Forestry and Women

Lesson : IV

Key to women's effective involvement in forestry is through their access to water. Trees cannot grow without water. Let women own water in forestry sector.



Mainstream : Biodiversity and Water

Lesson : VI

Key to biodiversity is through diverse range of water management initiatives : private, public, joint and other.



Mainstream : Integrated Watershed

Lesson : VII

The focus should be on the watershed users, the poor women among them, to make it integrated. This means addressing credit, market, social and other needs of the users of watershed.



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Mainstream : Equity Issues

Lesson : VIII

Equity not only between women and men but also between poor women and not so poor women is important. This means, recognizing poor women as watershed users in individual capacity as well as in a group.



Mainstream : Tools and Methods

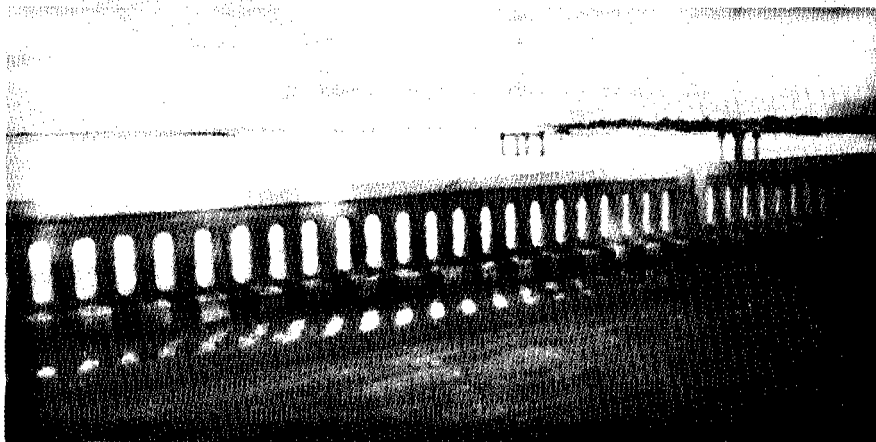
Lesson : IX

The most important method or tool for mainstreaming is parting with financial and management powers: without that no tool or method can mainstream poor women in natural resource management.



Future Areas for Action

1. Taking over of RWSS by women.
2. Taking over local irrigation schemes by women's groups and association.



3. Financing community infrastructure : including water by district federations of women.